(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as per the said report water of most of rivers in country has been contaminated;

(c) if so, whether Government have identified the facts after examining its details; and

(d) if so, what are the facts and the names of the rivers where the water has been found to be contaminated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Central Ground Water Board has not prepared any report about water of the rivers of the country. However, the Central Ground Water Board (Northern Region) has prepared an interim report on pollution in Kali River (East) and in ground water of its neighbouring areas in Meerut and Ghaziabad districts.

(b) to (d) As per the interim report, high concentration of Zinc and Iron have been found in ground water in the area of study. Concentration of other toxic elements have also been found on the border line of permissible limits for drinking water. As per the report the ground water pollution may be due to discharge of waste water from Daurala Sugar Mill and other sugar and chemical industrial units in Kali River. Ban on disposal of partially treated or untreated effluents from industries into Kali River, regular monitoring of round water quality, alternate arrangement of potable water supply are some of the recommendations made in the report.

Ranjit Sagar Dam

†5478. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Ranjit Sagar Dam in Punjab has since been completed;

(b) if so, the actual difference between the total expenditure and the basic estimated expenditure on the construction of this project;

(c) the total area of additional land which will be irrigated after the completion the said dam; and

(d) the name of the States of whose this additional irrigated land will be and the total area of the said land in each State as well?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Ranjit Sagar Dam in Punjab is in final stages of completion.

(b) According to the project authorities, a total expenditure of about Rs. 3300 crores has been incurred upto March, 2000. The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3433 crores at April 1999 price level.

(c) and (d) The project will stabilize irrigation over 3.16 lakh hectares of land in Punjab and 32,000 hectares of land in Jammu & Kashmir after the completion of Shahpur Kandi Project downstream.

Exploration of irrigation capacity

†5479. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibilities for increasing the irrigation capacity in the coming years keeping in view of the irrigation demand in the country;

(b) if so, whether an estimate of the demand of irrigation capacity by the year 2025 has been made; and

(c) the projects formulated by Government to meet the said requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Governments formulate plans and take up irrigation projects from their own plan allocations and as per their own priorities. However, keeping in view the need to cover additional areas under irrigation, the Government of India has also taken/ proposed to take various policy and programme initiatives. These include revision of National Water Policy, Command Area Development Programme, preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices, promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, artificial recharge of ground water, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse uses.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.